

Amherst Public Arts Commission Meeting – July 11, 2013
First Floor Meeting Room, Amherst Town Hall

Present: Rachel Hankinson, Bonnie Isman, Rene Theberge, Rosario Gaddier
Absent: Jenny Lind, Jim Wald (Select Board liaison)

Called to order 4 p.m.

Election of Officers. Rene was elected Chair by acclamation. Rachel will continue as Treasurer, and Bonnie will continue as Secretary.

Recruitment of new members. Rene and Bonnie have been in contact with a potential new member, and he has submitted an application to join the Commission. We have one more vacancy to fill.

Fundraising Report. Over \$1,200 was raised by the June fund drive, including one \$500 donation from out of state, 3 or 4 \$100 donations, and many smaller donations. Cash donations collected at the party on June 30, and the \$1,000 grant coming from the Amherst Cultural Council will complete funding for the current payment of \$2,500 due to Matt Johnson. Fund raising is still needed to keep public art in the town parks. The next payment will be due on March 31, 2014, and the final payment will be due on December 31, 2014. We discussed possible sources of other grants, such as the Xeric Foundation, the Cherwatti Family Fund, and the Amherst Cultural Council's 2014 grant round. Rachel will draft a press release describing the fund drive's success and announcing Rene as the new Chair of APAC. We agreed it is important to keep this issue before the public.

Town Hall Exhibits. The current exhibit received good reviews in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. Rachel volunteered to update the publicity contact list given to artists. Rene will contact Don David regarding the next Town Hall exhibit by the Pioneer Valley Photo Group (starts in September). Terry Rooney has the contact information for Walter Hamilton who is scheduled to exhibit in December. Rene will gather those materials when he talks with her. Terry herself will exhibit at Town Hall in March 2014.

Relationships with Other Organizations. Rene suggested that we contact Amherst organizations that support public art to see how we can work together. Rene will meet with Town Manager John Musante to talk about the Commission's work and to clarify the BID's funding commitments for Matt Johnson's sculpture. He will also meet with Tony Maroulis from the Chamber of Commerce and Stacey Lennard at the Youth Action Coalition. Bonnie will talk with Ellen Kosmer, the Chair of the Amherst Cultural Council. Rachel will contact the Arts Walk committee. Rosario will talk to Jim Lescault, the head of Amherst Media.

Treasurer's Report. Rachel reported that she doesn't have a good system for keeping track of APAC funds, but Holly in Town Accounting has detailed information on deposits and expenses. Rene will work with Rachel to set up a better system for her to use, and Rosario will send out information on online resources.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved. We will discuss projects for 2014 at the next meeting.

Adjourned 5:10 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 7 at 4 pm

Submitted by Bonnie Isman